

Diane K. Noda  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ventura Field Office  
2493 Portola Road, Suite B  
Ventura, CA 93003

Re: Request for Species List

Dear Ms. Noda:

EPA Region 9 is in the process of reissuing its general NPDES permit for discharges from offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities operating in Federal waters off the coast of Southern California. The geographic area of coverage of the proposed permit would be the 49 lease blocks currently considered active by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. These lease blocks are located within a band three to 15 miles from the coastline stretching from Orange County in the south to Santa Barbara County in the north. The specific locations of the 49 active lease blocks can be seen in the three enclosed maps.

The purpose of this letter is to request a list under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and its implementing regulations at 50 CFR 402.12(c) of endangered, threatened and candidate species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with any critical habitat for such species within the geographic area covered by the proposed general permit. We are also making a similar request to the National Marine Fisheries Service for a list of species under the jurisdiction of that Agency. These lists will help to ensure the final general permit is consistent with the requirements of the ESA when it is reissued.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please refer your staff to Eugene Bromley of the NPDES Permits Office at (415) 972-3510.

Sincerely,

David Smith, Manager  
NPDES Permits Office (WTR-5)

Enclosures

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